

S. No.	HTS No.	Description of the Product
7	8205	Handtools, Blow Torches, Anvils etc.
	8483	Transmission Shafts, Bearings, Gears etc/parts
	8708	Parts & Accessory for Motor Vehicles

Export of Agricultural Products

568. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken steps to encourage the export of agricultural products;

(b) if so since when; and

(c) how far the export of agricultural products have increased during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Policy of exports of agricultural products forms an integral part of the Export Import Policy of the country. The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process, and accordingly, policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary, with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable.

(c) The export of agro products (including marine products, tea, coffee, castor oil and cotton) during the current year for the period (April-Oct.) are as under:

(Rs. Thousand Crore)

Year	Agricultural exports
2000-01 (Apr.-Oct.)	13.80
1999-2000 (Apr.-Oct.)	13.59

Source: DGC&S, Calcutta

UN Panel Report on India

569. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'UN panel names India in blood diamonds trail' which appeared in the Indian Express dated 22nd January, 2001;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) The United Nations Panel of Experts under the Chairmanship of Mr. Martin Chungong Ayafor during their visit to India was apprised of the various actions taken by the Government of India and the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council to ensure that India does not have any dealings in conflict/blood diamonds. The UN Panel in turn had expressed its satisfaction about the action taken by India. In its report the Expert Panel has stated that it is essential and urgent that major trading centres, which includes India, come to a common agreement on the recording and